

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 2, which have been combined and rewritten as the following new claim 5 to be added:

5. An electric ballast comprising an electric coil with coil windings having a width d which are wound on a synthetic resin coil base (10) including a box-like base part comprising four faces arranged so as to form a rectangle for accommodating a metal core, said base part being provided on either side with mutually parallel flanges (121, 122) limiting the width d of the coil windings, characterized in that:

- (i) the coil base (10) is provided with a connection member (250) for engaging an external electrical connector;
 - (ii) the ballast further comprises a separate insulating synthetic resin cover (20) which includes as a part thereof an external insulator (25) which engages said connection member (250) of the coil base (10); and
 - (iii) whereby the cover (20) engages the coil base (10) and cooperates therewith to substantially completely enclose the coil windings.
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Please amend claims 3 and 4 as follows:

3. (amended) A ballast as claimed in claim [1 or 2] 5, characterized in that the cover [is provided with] has end portions